

## **NETWORKING EVENT DETAILS**

Title of event \*

### ***THE NEW URBAN AGENDA IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH: ENGAGING RESEARCH IN POLICY MAKING***

**Provide a summary of the main theme of your event \***

On the eve of the adoption of a global new urban agenda (NUA), it is critical to find new ways to empower urban policy makers and other stakeholders through access to current research from established knowledge institutions and networks. With rapid urbanisation and the pressures of globalisation being felt now more than ever in cities of the global south, applied urban research networks are well placed to offer data, analysis and recommendations that could strengthen policy responses to pressing housing and service delivery problems. This event will bring together research networks from different regions to share experiences and debate how to better engage with the policy makers, ministers, local governments and practitioners in general. With the support of Cities Alliance, three networks dedicated to sustainability challenges in the global south are joining forces to host this event – the African Urban Research Initiative (AURI), the Network Association of European Researchers on Urbanization in the South (N-AERUS) and the Network of Sustainable Urban Development Study Centres in Latin America and the Caribbean (REDEUS\_LAC)– to bring together Ministers, Mayors, civil society organisations, urban practitioners and academic researchers to engage in dialogue on ways to improve access to and translation of urban research to enhance policy formulation.

**Key Objective 1 \***

The first objective of this networking session is to engage on the issue of how urban researchers across disciplines can be better involved in policy formulation and development. By sharing regional experiences on knowledge co-production and other methodologies, the session will offer a platform for learning lessons and developing new ways to engage in advocacy.

**Key Objective 2 \***

The second objective is to engage in preliminary dialogue on the ways in which spatial, social and economic inequality are addressed within the framework of the new urban agenda and translated in policy spaces across geographies. This networking event will for the first time bring together urban research networks from three continents. This event will provide a unique opportunity for linkages to be established in order to facilitate south-south and north-south cooperation amongst the membership of the REDEUS\_LAC, AURI and NAERUS networks.

**Key Objective 3 \***

The third objective is to provide an interactive space for debate and knowledge transfer that will give policy makers, planners and practitioners in general the opportunity to learn about

ongoing research experiences from members of each of the research networks. The geographic representation will include but is not limited to:

- Egypt, Angola and Kenya,
- Chile, Argentina, Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil, Mexico,
- Peru, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Vietnam, Bolivia

The diverse participation will enable a robust debate and time for reflection on how research can strengthen policy responses in line with the new urban agenda.

**Please select not more than two of the Thematic Areas to which your event is relevant**

- Thematic Area 1: Social Cohesion and Equity - Livable Cities
- Thematic Area 2: Urban Frameworks
- Thematic Area 3: Spatial Development
- Thematic Area 4: Urban Economy
- Thematic Area 5: Urban Ecology and Environment
- Thematic Area 6: Urban Housing and Basic Services

**Please explain to what extent the event will be relevant to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda \***

This event is central to the implementation of the NUA in that it will promote synergy among research centres by sharing good and bad practices, anticipating the required knowledge for the implementation of the NUA – accompanying and giving early warnings – and exercising in the integration of key sustainability issues, which tend to be treated in a disaggregate manner. It also addresses the call for building capacities, promote peer to peer exchanges and partnerships as key aspects within the NUA.

**Number of persons funded by organization to participate at event \***

Approximately twenty people will be funded to participate in the networking session.

**How many of these persons are from [Least Developed Countries](#)? \***

**Please explain to what extent the event will be inclusive in terms of age and gender balance:**

We will ensure that there is age and gender balance as part of the networking event by inviting participation from civil society organisation and in particular organisations which promote the interests and welfare of youth and women. So far, the three networks are already composed by an equal presence of women and men, and by early as well as experienced researchers.

**What is your outreach strategy to promote attendance at this event? \***

In order to promote the event AURI will make use of its connections to the urban knowledge portals UrbanAfrica.Net and Citiscope.com to disseminate announcements about the networking event. AURI will also engage through its social media platforms to raise awareness of the event with civil society organisation working on the urban agenda.

REDEUS\_LAC is promoting the event throughout the LAC region and is organising a pre-HIII meeting in Santiago de Chile, to take place in July 2016, to prepare for Quito. We are aiming at building a document signalling important issues to be addressed by research to implement the NUA in LAC.

N-Aerus has already started to advertised this event through the public events the network is organising in Europe to disseminate the results of the N-Aerus / Cities Alliance partnership towards HIII (*Facilitating the link between knowledge generation and global policy making towards Habitat III*). The network announced its presence in Quito at the Regional European HIII conference in Prague (March 2016: *Current challenges and perspectives on city governance, housing and planning policies and informality in the cities of the Global South. A researchers' viewpoint*), a lunch-time conference at the EU development cooperation directorate (DEVCO) in Brussels (May 2016: *Our future in Cities*), and a APERAU conference in partnership with UN-Habitat, in Brussels as well (May 2016). N-Aerus will also promote this networking event through its website: [www.n-aerus.net](http://www.n-aerus.net)

As co-organizers, the Cities Alliance a membership based organization will promote and disseminate the event among its members, and networks, which entail a wide range of key stakeholders for the NUA (national governments, local government representations, multilateral and international organizations, non-governmental organizations, foundations and research institutions).

**What is your monitoring strategy to follow up on the expected outcomes of this event? \***

REDEUS\_LAC is planning to have a post-HIII meeting in July 2017 to assess the outcome and follow up of the implementation of the NUA in LAC. N-Aerus will organise its annual conference in Gotemborg in November 2016 and thus further discuss the outcomes of the event and the possibility to provide a basis for long-term partnerships with AURI and REDEUS\_LAC. The AURI will host its biennial conference in 2018. The conference will include a call for papers which will ask researchers to draw on the experiences of implementing the NUA in the post Habitat III environment.

**Is the event funded by another organization/institution apart from the applying organization? \***

Yes

No

**Indicate prospective speakers or panellists you plan to feature \***

The networking session will feature a moderator from the Cities Alliance Secretariat and panellists which representing the AURI, REDEUS\_LAC and N-AERUS networks. The session will also feature remarks from a member of the Cities Alliance Africa Think Tank who will be present at the Quito conference.